

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 13-20 and 22-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-10, 13-20 and 22-23 are amended for clarity and to more distinctly set forth the steps previously recited in the method claims. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Chang during the August 6, 2008 telephone interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. The Claims Are Definite

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 13-20 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Office Action specifically cites various terms of the claims, alleging that they are "confusing phrases". Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this Amendment, the term "block information" is deleted from the claims.

Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill would have readily known, as basic terms in the art, the terms "digital information", "bit map image", and "address". Further, Applicants submit that the other terms also would have been known by one of ordinary skill. For example, one of ordinary skill would have understood that a "data image" is an image of data (data formatted in a given format); that a "data page" is a grouping of data; that "data image address" is the address of a data image; that "encoded data image" is a data image rendered in a particular format for a particular use, such as for storage, for example; that "target data image" is a desired data image; and that a "retrieval data block" is a data block used for retrieval purposes.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Claims Are Patentable Over The Applied References

A. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 13-20 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,319,629 to Henshaw et al. (Henshaw). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 23, Henshaw fails to disclose "modulating the signal beam, by a spatial light modulator, using a retrieval data page containing a data image to be retrieved" (emphasis added, claims 1 and 9) and "the object optical system modulates the object beam by the to-be-recorded digital information" (emphasis added, claims 15 and 23).

Henshaw discloses a multidimensional optical storage system having a tunable laser 102 that produces beam of light 103, beamsplitter 104, shutter element 111, read/write shutter 122, memory element 118, data output plane 134, and address output plane 144 (Fig. 1). Beamsplitter 104 renders beam of light 103 into data beam 108 and reference beam 106 (Fig. 1). However Henshaw does not disclose modulating the object beam by a data image to be retrieved, thus, the claims are patentable over Henshaw.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 13-20 and 22-23 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting over claims 18-19 and 27 of U.S. Patent No. 7,274,497 to Tsukagoshi et al. (Tsukagoshi '497). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1, 9, 15 and 23, Tsukagoshi '497 fails to claim "modulating the signal beam, by a spatial light modulator, using a retrieval data page containing a data image to be retrieved" (emphasis added, claims 1 and 9) and "the object

optical system modulates the object beam by the to-be-recorded digital information" (emphasis added, claims 15 and 23).

In claims 18-19 and 27, Tsukagoshi '497 claims a holographic recording and reproducing apparatus having, *inter alia*, a spatial light modulator "modulating the object beam to the search beam so as to sequentially illuminate each two-dimensional page". Because Tsukagoshi '497 does not claim modulating the object beam by a data image to be retrieved, the claims are patentably distinct from the claims of Tsukagoshi '497.

Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 29, 2008

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